(d) whether Government propose to fix time-frame for this process?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. India has been ranked as the 4th most favoured country for holidays, above South Africa and Switzerland, as per a survey undertaken by Conde Nast Traveller magazine for their 2006 Readers'Travel Awards.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Tourism hasassigned to a reputed Consultant to examine the various aspects of tourism, covering existing policies, infrastructure, marketing strategies, etc., and prepare a plan for increasing the flow of foreign tourists in the country.

Development of Seminary hills as tourist place

†243. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scheme to develop Seminary hills of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, as a tourist place has been cleared;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated for beautification of these hills; and

(c) by when, the Seminary hills would be fully developed as a tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Integrated development of places of tourist interest/spots in the country including the State of Maharashtra, is a continuous process. The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ UT Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grant of Central financial assistance every year to them for the following schemes:

(i) Tourist Circuits

(ii) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development

(iii) Large Revenue Generating projects

No proposal for development of Seminary Hills of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra has either been prioritized for grant of Central financial assistance during 2006-07 nor has any such project proposal has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi:

submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra during the current financial year.

However, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 8197.75 lakh for the State of Maharashtra during the 10th Plan (till December, 2006). Year-wise details of Central financial assistance provided to the State of Maharashtra is given in Statement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Statement

Year-wise details of Central assistance provided to Maharashtra for development of tourist places

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the State	Year	Amount sanctioned
Maharashtra	2002-03	623.46
	2003-04	1079.51
	2004-05	1650.69
	2005-06	2075.04
	2006-07	2769.05
	TOTAL:	8197.75

Action plan for the Commonwealth Games

†244. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists expected to arrive in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the Commonwealth Games to be organised during the year 2010;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment regarding requirement of hotel rooms in Delhi during the said games;

(c) whether Government have formulated any action-plan to meet the requirement of hotel rooms; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.